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United States Senate . OF HEAVSPORTATION

THAD COCHRAN

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON

APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

2004 MAR - 4 A 10: 46

February 12, 2004

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2402

The Honorable Norman Mineta Secretary Department of Transportation 400 7th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have been informed that the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration of the Department of Transportation is considering a petition by Nissan North America, Inc., for a statutory exemption from the Corporate Average Fuel Economy program that requires separate fuel economy calculations for domestically and non-domestically manufactured passenger cars.

Nissan is seeking a statutory exemption so it will not have to reduce U.S. manufacturing and employment as a result of Corporate Average Fuel Economy penalties.

Granting this exemption will facilitate continued increases in Nissan domestic production and employment in Mississippi.

I hope that you will give this request full consideration.

Sincerely,

THAD COCHRAN United States Senator

TC/mw

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